

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 27-29, 34-40 and 45-52 are in the application. Claims 28-29 have been canceled. Claims 27 and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claims 27 and 40 to include the elements of claims 28 and 29, now canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-29, 34-40 and 45-52 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Dodge et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

By transmitting the messages to allocated external receivers as a function of the comparative results, it is possible that selected persons or devices will be supplied with appropriate messages depending on the respective operating states occurring such as malfunctioning. The external receivers may be comprised of various technical apparatuses informing selected persons, or automatically taking necessary steps such as, e.g., ordering a new welding wire coil at the respective supplier.

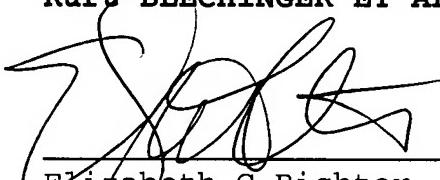
By transmitting the messages to external receivers in an allocated manner as a function of the comparative results, the type of transmission is adapted to the type of receiver. It is, thus, possible for instance, if the transmission of a message to the mobile phone of a works manager is desired, to realize such a transmission in the form of a short message (SMS), whereas the notification of a supplier can also be made via fax. The respective allocation of messages, and of external receivers and the type of transmission to such receivers may be stored in tabular form or in the form of databases.

Such features are not taught or suggested by Dodge et al. Dodge et al. does not adapt the type of message based sent to an allocated external receiver based on the comparative results received, in an allocated manner. In Dodge, there is no adaptation of the types of message sent and the type of receiver to which the messages are being sent, nor are the messages being directed only to selected receivers based on the comparative results. These features are a distinct improvement over Dodge for the reasons given above. A person reading Dodge would not be directed to modify the system so that the receivers are allocated based on the comparative results or that the messages are sent to the receivers based on the comparative results in an allocated

manner.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 27, 34-40 and 45-52 as amended are patentable over the cited reference. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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